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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 91% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 62,428 | Nifty 18,487 | Gold 60,760 | Silver 73,000 | Dollar 82.40 | Euro 88.42 | GBP 102.12

CRUNCH TIME

K'taka Forest Dept says it has no funds to maintain lakes in its ambit

PAGE 3

CANCEL CULTURE

Due to low patronage, trains to airport suspended or partially cancelled

PAGE 5

While transferring mixed waste from auto tippers to garbage compactors, trail of leachate left behind at areas — some of which have just recently been beautified

SCUM UNDONE

BBMP's solid waste dept simply not bothered as it creates stinky black spots

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is expected to keep the city clean and also take measures to eliminate black spots created due to reckless garbage dumping by residents at some localities. But, you have to hand it over to the civic agency, as it manages to go one step backwards, and itself create black spots across the city.

We spotted black spots at various locations including main roads and lake bunds, clearly pointing to Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department's apathy during the transfer of mixed waste from auto tippers to garbage compactors. The spots selected for transferring mixed waste from auto tippers to garbage compactors are quite the sight to see (or not see rather).

> **The leachate leaking from the garbage compactor is flowing into the roadside drain. And finally, it will flow into the nearest water body**
> — Shiva Kumar N, a resident of Ramesh Nagar

For example, garbage is being transferred to compactors from auto tippers on Malleshpalya Main Road in CV Raman Nagar Assembly constituency. The location was beautified and the compound wall was painted a few years ago by volunteers of The Ugly Indian. The purpose of painting the compound wall and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

GET OFF THE STRUGGLE BUS

Health check-ups, better working conditions will help bus drivers on duty, say activists

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A recent case of a bus driver suffering from a heart attack when he was behind the wheel in Vijayapura district has brought into sharp focus the health of drivers, who work under immense pressure and are responsible for the lives of several passengers while on duty. Public transport activists emphasised on the need for regular health camps and reduction in work stress levels for bus drivers.

Around 50 passengers of the bus in Vijayapura's Sindagi town had a narrow escape after the driver suddenly suffered from a heart attack on Wednesday when the bus was pulling into a petrol pump. The conductor took over and applied the brakes in the nick of time.

"After the covid pandemic, heart attacks have been on the rise. Given the traffic and stressful work conditions, an overall health scheme is required for bus drivers. Annual health checkups and subsidised health care should be made available to all road transport corporations. Similar to the process in private companies, employees can enrol themselves for health checkups and get reimbursed for the expense," suggested Shaheen Shahsa of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikere Vedike (BBPV).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 What an act!

Kathputliyan Theatre Group presents "Pashmina & Didi IAS". Pashmina is an unfeigned and heartwarming story of humans that takes us through a journey of shared loss and grieving, set in the backdrop of the tragic events that shook Kashmir, while Didi IAS is a satirical comedy that amalgamates the machinations of India's soul-numbing bureaucracy, the artistic environment of the country, and the precious as well as precarious role of dissent. It is a political satire based on a newly appointed minister who wants to call the tune when it comes to 'artists'. **Venue: Alliance Francaise; When: 4 June, 4.30 & 7.30 PM Tickets: www.bookmyshow.com**

02 Building bridges

Catch "Building Bridges", a unique documentary screening by Rahul Chandawarkar. The winter of 2004 saw a small, Urdu theatre troupe from Pune travel all the way to Lahore to participate in the popular, World Performing Arts festival held in that city. Journalist Rahul Chandawarkar, who was the manager-actor with the troupe managed to capture the sights, sounds, moods and experiences of Lahore city on his handy-cam. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar When: June 3, 6 pm-8 pm**

03 Drum it up

Bangalore's wait for regular Drum Circles is finally over! Let's get ready for our first community Drum Circle - full of rhythms, connection, and fun. Bangalore Drums Collective (BDC) is the city's very own free for all drumming community of passionate djembe drummers, percussionists, musicians, and happy people. The goal of BDC is to create a welcoming drumming space for everyone. **Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, When: 4th June, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Register: https://linktr.ee/blrcreativecircus Contact: 96192 96667**

PhD applications go up at Bangalore University

Have received nearly five times usual number of applications: Officials

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Officials at Bangalore University say that there is an increased demand for PhD courses and officials say that they have got five times more than the usual number of applications.

Currently, 481 candidates can take up doctoral research in 41 subjects. However, Bangalore University has received 2,165 applications so far and this is said to be a new record.

BU registrar (evaluation) C Srinivas said, "We are currently gearing up to conduct entrance tests for the PhD admissions. As we have got a lot of queries, we have not permitted those who are yet to complete PG courses to apply. I hope the candidates will take the entrance test seriously."

One of the reasons for the surge in applications is that BU has called for PhD entries after a gap of four years. During 2016, BU had received 1,800 applications while in 2019 (last time when BU had called for entries), 3,738 had applied.

Officials said that this time, a majority of the applications are for humanities. An official said, "Though we had received an all-time high number of applications in 2019, this time the number of applications were comparatively lesser as we had a rider that the final year PG students were not eligible. In 2019, we were allowing final year PG students. However, those who had completed PG were not happy with this decision and had legally challenged it. Then the Court had directed BY that only those who have completed PG should be eligible to apply. Hence, we had to modify our rules."

One of the reasons for the surge in applications is that BU has called for PhD entries after a gap of four years

BU is likely to conduct an entrance test in the first week of June. A merit list will be drawn where 50 per cent of weightage will be given to the PhD entrance test and the rest for PG marks. For the application status, around 560 have applied for science stream, 193 for commerce, 112 for management, 99 for law, 45 for education.

Prepping for World Environment Day

Meanwhile, the University Grants Commission has asked the colleges to take up a number of initiatives to promote the importance of World Environment Day. In a note, UGC secretary Sudeep Singh Jain said that the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change was organising various activities for awareness about the mission and inculcating sustainable consumption behaviour. Hence, colleges have been asked to upload detailed plans of proposed activities.

The planned activities could be in the form of awareness workshops regarding sustainable practices and mission Life, making college and university campuses plastic-free, creating less paper or digital campuses to avoid use of paper, avoiding food wastage in hostels and cafeterias, promoting composting centres and organising bicycle rallies/plastic collection/water body cleaning activities during the month.

Learning with brooms and brushes

Y Maheswara Reddy
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Armed with brooms and paintbrushes, the students of Government Primary and High School at Ramagondanahalli have started their academic year on a note of cleanliness and creativity.

The objective of the initiative was to inculcate responsibility and ownership among the students for their classrooms.

"We cleaned it with brooms and later painted it," said Lakshmi who is pursuing the SSLC.

Sameer Burman, a SSLC student, said that he has learnt painting by participating in the activity. "Now, I am confident of painting at home," said Sameer.

For Mehenur Haque, an SSLC student, the groupwork was what made the whole project a lot more fun.

Meanwhile, Smitha Bhogu, a teacher, said the students had cleaned the premises and painted the walls last year with the help and guidance of artists. "The students painted murals on the wall and also created a kitchen garden on the school premises. The students are looking after the kitchen garden," said Smitha Bhogu.

Girls and boys of Government Primary and High School at Ramagondanahalli clean and paint their classrooms

Meanwhile, Sumedha Rao, program manager, said the school reopening post summer break is a very special time when students come back to their favourite space. "This school has a unique in a PPP model with Inventure Academy, Whitefield Ready Volunteer Group and Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor (RBITC) as key partners," she said. She said the students not only clean their classrooms but give these rooms a fresh coat of paint and they absolutely love this activity and put in extreme effort and care in doing so.

"This also ensures they take pride and ownership of their classrooms and these are maintained well throughout the year. They also clean and paint up the corridors. Apart from this they create all the classroom displays that communicate the school vision, values. The students and teachers work together to come up with Classroom rules and these too are displayed for everyone to remember and follow through the year," she said.

She said that apart from this, children work on the garden patch and engage in a bunch of fun games and crafts activities.

"All this inculcates love and respect for their school which truly reflects in their attitude towards learning," she said.

With helping hands, waste centre rises from the ashes

₹5 lakh raised to establish JP Nagar's dry waste collection centre that was gutted in a blaze

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As DWCC in JP Nagar gets fixed, SHG members carry on with their work

Ever since the Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) in ward 177, JP Nagar, was gutted on May 20, all activists and residents of the area were concerned about the livelihoods of the women behind the centre. The centre was run by Kumuda, a former waste picker who had put in money from her pocket to set up the centre with the BBMP's support. Volunteers from Hasiru Dala started a crowdfunding initiative, which managed to raise Rs 5 lakh in a week and Kumuda has been able to reestablish the centre.

Kumuda had also lost all the collected recyclable material. The shock of the fire did not stop Kumuda or her workers from carrying on. Operators from nearby DWCC units gave the centre a vehicle to carry out collection of dry waste. The workers continued to use the burnt space. However, it was necessary to rebuild the centre, which is why the crowdfunding initiative was begun.

The team of Hasiru Dalu raised over Rs 5,54,400 to help her continue the DWCC along with the other workers. Temporary repairs at the DWCC unit cost Rs 4 lakh. An earthmover was sent by BBMP to clean the space and it cost Rs 16,300. The compactor came at Rs 16,500. Workers' pending payment is worth Rs 1,30,400 and the SHG loan repayment is Rs 3,500.

Bianca Fernandes, IEC manager, Hasiru Dala, said, "We are rebuilding the structure. The earthmover was sent by BBMP to clear up all the waste left over after the centre was burnt. Now Kumuda and her team are back to work. We filed an FIR with the JP Nagar police station to investigate the incident, but we haven't gotten any update yet after that. The BBMP too has not come forward to help us, apart from sending the earthmover."

Kumuda said she was completely shattered after the blaze destroyed the centre. "I didn't not know what to do as I had put in a lot of effort to start it by myself and run it. However, the following day some of my friends from other DWCC centres visited me and consoled me saying that they would support me," she said.

She had been unable to use their centre's vehicle as it too was damaged in the fire incident. "They gave me a vehicle so that the daily operations could continue. The very next day, I was back to work. I was very thankful to them for helping me out. But I wasn't sure if I'll be able to again get back the DWCC, but with the help of Hasiru Dala's crowdfunding, works were carried out to rebuild the DWCC. I'm extremely grateful to everybody."

> **We filed an FIR with the JP Nagar police for a probe, but we haven't got any update. The BBMP too has not helped**
>
> –Bianca Fernandes, Hasiru Dala

Traffic haywire, but fine collection is smooth

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Residents of Frazer Town have a complaint -- the traffic police personnel are seen hanging about near Lazar Road to issue challans and collect traffic fines, but nobody is interested in guiding the traffic near Sundar Hospital under the bridge.

Umraz Pasha, a resident of the area, says that between 7 pm and 9:30 pm daily, people are stuck in the traffic under the bridge. "You can spot policemen on the main road collecting fines but you can never see them under the bridge. Every person travelling on the route or living in the area is frustrated. People are stuck in the traffic for hours," he said.

Commuters also ask why bother using tech to check violations, if police have to be present at spot

Another commuter wondered why the traffic cops need to be so diligent with collection of fines as AI cameras have been installed all over in the city to catch the traffic violations.

"Crores of rupees have been invested in using technology for traffic violations and still we are relying on traffic police to physically take fines. The police should be at places where they are physically required to decongest the traffic," he said.

When BM contacted the area inspector of Frazer Town traffic police, he said that the traffic police is deployed in areas where major traffic congestion takes place.

"Now that I have been informed, I will look into the matter. But the traffic police are constantly deployed in areas which have heavy traffic flow. As of now, we have not received any complaints about the traffic under the bridge," he said.

Forest dept has no money to look after lakes

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Bangalore Mirror
Death of a lake
Nagawara Lake, stormwater drain in the area are full of weeds and garbage
Bendemutt Layout's cry for help

BM had reported on May 27 about how Nagawara Lake is dying a slow death

Bengaluru lakes that are under the ambit of Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) are staring at a bleak future. According to KFD officials, the department is facing a funds crunch when it comes to maintaining its lakes in the city.

"We have written to the higher officials asking for funds to maintain the city lakes. De-weeding and other activities for minimal upkeep of lakes are taken up by the department every three months. However, we have not been able to clean and maintain Nagawara Lake due to the shortage of funds. The waterbody will be cleaned, and protection of the lake area will be increased once the funds are disbursed," said a higher official of KFD.

The department manages Nagawara, Madiwala, Puttenahalli, and Hebbal lakes.

Sources from the department also informed that Nagawara Lake might soon be transferred back to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The lake has been in a bad state since a private company's lease with the department to maintain the lake expired nearly four years ago. "The issue of Nagawara Lake is going on for some time and BBMP may soon get custody as they have more funds to handle and maintain lakes," said the official.

But, lake experts and activists say KFD is more competent and equipped to care for the city's lakes as they understand the lake ecology far better than BBMP.

"The forest department officials study lake ecology and so they have a better understanding of lake management and preservation. Lakes will fare better if they are transferred to the forest department. With some assistance from research institutes and citizens, the department officials can bring back a healthy lake ecosystem," said Dr KS Sangunni, chairperson of Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake & Bird Conservation Trust (YPLBCT), and retired professor, Department of Physics in IISc.

They also highlight the issue of lake encroachment and say the original lake extent should be transferred. "While lakes that are under KFD must remain with the department, any unavoidable transfer should happen with clear demarcation of encroached areas. There has been encroachment of these water bodies transfer to the forest department and it should not be regularised. Most of the regularisations happen over such exchanges," said Ramprsad V, founder, Friends of Lakes.

Yelachenahalli dwellers more drained than ever

They say their stormwater drains require urgent desilting, but authorities are neglecting work

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Residents say that the stormwater drains in the area are brimming with garbage, leading to a stench; Apart from this, they complain that they are beginning to experience various kinds of infections as well

Residents of Yelachenahalli have complained that despite the ward being filled with stormwater drains that have not been desilted and non-asphalted roads, authorities have not bothered to take up any work.

"The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has let sewage flow into an open drain. We had complained in October last year, and the board had promised to install a new line, but the project is yet to see the light of day. We have submitted three letters and had four meetings over the issue while also bringing it up during the water adalats held by the board, but nothing has changed," said Gulab Pasha, a resident of the ward and an activist. He added that even after light spells of rain, sewage gushes out of the drains, causing health hazards to residents in the vicinity.

Pasha further noted that stormwater drains in the ward have not been desilted despite the rainy season being a stone's throw away. "Last monsoon, they had promised to desilt the drains. They had first refused to do so, citing that many drains were closed, but eventually agreed. However, they are now saying that the contractor has fled the scene," he further said.

> **"BWSSB has let sewage flow into an open drain. We had complained last year; the board promised to install a new line, but nothing happened**
> – Gulab Pasha, resident/activist

Praveen, a resident of Ilyas Nagar, said that the stormwater drain situated behind Dayanand Sagar College is brimming with garbage. "This particular stormwater drain begins at Banashankari, and the garbage dumped through the stretch is getting accumulated here. The authorities had drilled an opening to take out the garbage, but they have not covered it again, encouraging those around to dump waste straight into the drain now. When they did carry out some work and took out a portion of the garbage, they dumped it within the vicinity without entirely clearing it," he explained. He added that the stench due to the accumulation of garbage is unbearable.

Along with this, residents in the area have begun to experience various kinds of infections, he said. He noted that authorities concerned have been dodging the issue and refuse to take accountability despite residents raising multiple complaints. "They blame the contractors and say that we must wait until they start the work, but isn't it the responsibility of these authorities to ensure that projects are taken up when they are due?" he questioned.

Pasha claimed that the ward received a grant of Rs 26 crore last year for the purpose of road repair work, but authorities have not taken any steps to direct these funds. "Most of the roads in the locality do not have asphalt and are stone-filled," he said, adding that the situation will turn worse with the approaching monsoons.

Where there's smoke, there's cigarette butts

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The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) came up with guidelines for the disposal of cigarettes and bidi butts on November 1, 2022. However, as it has not been implemented in the state yet, a group of stakeholders, including experts, held a meeting with Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KPSCB) officials in March. After considering the suggestion, KSPCB has now come forward with an action plan.

One of the experts, Prabhakar, highlighted that there is a World Health Organization (WHO) report stating that tobacco product waste contains over 7,000 toxic chemicals, including known human carcinogens, which leach into and accumulate in the environment. Harmful chemicals from discarded butts, including nicotine and arsenic, can also be acutely toxic to aquatic organisms. Cellulose-based acetate cigarettes do not biodegrade under most circumstances due to their compressed makeup and the presence of acetyl molecules.

Representatives from the Tobacco Control Cell, Department of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), GoK, pointed out that animals are eating cigarette butts mixed with food waste. Although smoking is banned near bakeries, restaurants, petty shops, and public places, it still occurs. Cigarette butts are thrown near these shops without any proper disposal system. Hence, they advised source segregation of cigarette butts and education for tobacco users and retailers.

It was suggested that the ITC can help the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in formulating a method for the collection and disposal of cigarette/bidi butts.

Sunil, an environmental consultant, pointed out that cigarette butts are mixing with sewage after entering sewage treatment plant (STP), thereby affecting the performance of STPs. He emphasised the need to place dedicated dustbins for cigarette butts in front of shops.

Based on all the suggestions, the presiding officer of KSPCB has issued directions. The KSPCB, State Tobacco Control Cell, and CPCB will write to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to direct manufacturers of bidi and cigarettes to print disposal instructions on the packets.

The State Tobacco Control Cell will form a committee consisting of stakeholders to assist in formulating an SOP for the safe and scientific disposal of cigarette and bidi butts. The SOP is to be submitted to KSPCB within 10 days.

Additionally, the Palike will work with bidi manufacturers to place dedicated bins for the collection of butts on an experimental basis, especially in smoking hotspots in the city, as a pilot project. This initiative will then be extended throughout the state.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Pedestrian peril
H Siddaiah Road

This box in H Siddaiah Road, opposite Archana Complex, has been left exposed for weeks with wires inconveniencing pedestrians.

Motorists under threat
Vasanth Nagar

This road in Vasanth Nagar (Dr MH Ambareesh/Old Race Course Road), opposite Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, has either caved in or been dug up for a skywalk. This poses a danger to motorists.

Turn it off
Vasanth Nagar

In Vasanth Nagar, at the Treelight junction of Dr MH Ambareesh Road and opposite gate 4, the streetlights are always switched on throughout the year.

Trains to airport get suspended

Officials cite low passenger occupancy and lack of staff

In a big setback to the affordable public transport to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), the South Western Railways (SWR) have suspended a number of trains plying between Bengaluru and the airport.

Officials from the SWR stated that the train services were suspended or partially cancelled due to persistent low passenger occupancy and a scarcity of staff personnel. "We had to take a decision following a detailed analysis of ridership numbers, which have persistently stayed below five per cent in recent months. Passengers with bookings on the impacted trains should check the Indian Railways website (indianrail.gov.in) or contact their closest railway station for alternative travel arrangements."

It is ironic that while passengers pay thousands of rupees for cabs to reach the airport none take the trains which would ferry them for less than Rs 50. However, activists say that the trains were running at irregular intervals as well as there was no connectivity during peak hours. A lack of services during office entry and exit hours has proven to be a death knell for these services.

Rajkumar Dugar, the founder of Citizens for Citizens (C4C), expressed his dissatisfaction with the move. "It is "extremely unfortunate" that these MEMUs have been withdrawn, and the railroads should continue to operate them even in the absence of large ridership," he said.

He proposed extending all MEMU trains to Chikkaballapur (CBP) to capitalise on future demand and emphasises the necessity of guaranteeing high dependability and timeliness of rail services, restructuring routes and times, as well as improving train maintenance. According to Dugar, the potential for increasing patronage is enormous, especially given the expanding workforce at Bengaluru International Airport (BIAL), which presently employs over 30,000 people and is expected to grow further. He claims that 3,000 people would be enough to fill all six MEMU trains, consecutively benefitting thousands of farmers and students.

Surendra R, a regular traveller to the airport said, "After years of wait, the first set of trains were introduced towards Kempegowda international airport thereby providing an alternative transport mode. However, the trains were briefly halted during Covid and then restarted. But, it is sad they have been cancelled again."

The trains used to halt at the Airport Halt station which was located on the North West corner of BLR Airport campus with a 230-metre-long platform. The timing and frequency of the shuttle service were also synchronised with the train timings. The station had a booking counter, concourse area, rest rooms with provision for passengers with reduced mobility.

Activists say the trains were irregular and there was no connectivity especially during peak hours which would have otherwise benefitted many office-goers

Airport authorities said that based on usage, the facilities will be upgraded over a period of time.

In fact, this project has been a long pending one. Back in 2014, BIAL, in collaboration with the Railway authorities, proposed the establishment of a suburban rail service to BLR Airport to the Government of Karnataka, recommending a halt station on the existing line that connects Yeswanthpur to Devanahalli.

By Mitali Srivastava

PAGE 9 IAF trainer aircraft crashes, woman pilot among 2 who eject safely

CRIME FILES

Drug raids at schools, colleges

Bengaluru cops on Wednesday in an anti-drugs drive in schools, colleges, and parks, arrested 18 consumers and three peddlers. The police also succeeded in seizing 11 grams MDMA, 7 grams hydra mango and 2.5 kg of marijuana. Twenty-one cases were filed under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Srinivas Gowda, DCP Central, told Bangalore Mirror that they were conducting raids in colleges based on tip-offs and information.

"We are conducting awareness campaigns and raids to ensure a drug-free campus. As of now, we have noticed that it is happening in both colleges and schools and there are no specific types of people involved," he said.

He added that in Wednesday's raid, all the accused arrested were above 20 and many of them were below 30. **-BMB**

Man arrested for impersonation

Srinivas Gowda, DCP Cen Sadashivanagar police have arrested a person who tried to extort money in the name of a close aide of minister Priyank Kharge. The accused would allegedly call Congress leaders and promise chairmanship of corporation boards.

The accused has been identified as Raghunath of Ramakrishna Nagar, Mysuru. Recently, Raghunath had called Congress leader Geeta Shivaram of Dasarahalli constituency pretending to be minister Priyank Kharge's close aide and demanded money. Geeta immediately brought this matter to the attention of the minister. When the minister checked, it was brought to light that someone using his name. According to the officials, an investigation was conducted and the accused was found based on a complaint filed by Minister Kharge's close aide Keshav Murthy.

-BMB

Two arrested for extortion

The Pulakeshinagar police station of East Division has arrested two people on the charge of extorting a two-wheeler. The accused has been identified as Yaseen Khan Bin Nisar Khan, 20 and Arvinda Bin Late Vijay, 20. The police have recovered, iron rod and a knife that were being used by the culprits to extort people on the road.

"A special team was formed to investigate the case registered in this regard. The team has collected certain information through various dimensions, arrested two accused and seized the two-wheelers," said the police.

-BMB

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SCHOOL OF LAW
Constitution Law, Corporate Law, Business Law, Cyber Law, Marine Law, Criminal Law, IPR, Human Rights Law

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Candidates may walk-in with latest CV and recent passport size photo along with their Original Certificates and copies.
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COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR
RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS (SCALE-I, II & III) AND
OFFICE ASSISTANTS (MULTIPURPOSE)
IN REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (RRBs) - CRP RRBs XII

The online examinations for the next Common Recruitment Process for RRBs (CRP RRBs XII) for recruitment of Group "A"-Officers (Scale-I, II & III) and Group "B"-Office Assistant (Multipurpose) will be conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) tentatively in August and September 2023.

The interviews for recruitment of Group "A"- Officers (Scale-I, II & III) under the same process will be coordinated by the Nodal Regional Rural Banks with the help of NABARD and IBPS in consultation with appropriate authority tentatively in the month of November 2023.

Candidates, intending to apply for CRP RRBs - XII should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on authorised website by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.06.2023 to 21.06.2023
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training (PET)*	17.07.2023 to 22.07.2023
Online Examination - Preliminary	August, 2023
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	August / September 2023
Online Examination - Main / Single	September, 2023

*In case it is possible and safe to hold PET

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
Date: 01.06.2023 Director

Reservation for show?

Overcrowding in trains, mismanagement causes reserved ticket holders to lose faith in Railways; commuters also complain of malpractice by TTEs

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

File photograph of passengers boarding a train; Inset: People sitting inside an overpacked train

> **"Overcrowding affects sleep of those who are traveling overnight. I was visiting Subramanya temple early in the morning and had barely slept**
>
> – Madhusudan Venkatesh, resident of HSR Layout

Commuters who travel by booking seats on reserved coaches in the railways have been complaining of overcrowding.

Madhusudan Venkatesh, a resident of HSR layout, told Bangalore Mirror that he had booked a ticket from Bengaluru to Subramanya Road on the Mangalore – Hassan – Mysuru line. "The train was at 9:30 pm, and the TTE (Travelling Ticket Examiner) came to check for tickets only at 2 am. There were people who had gotten into the coach without reserved tickets, yet he was questioning me, someone with a valid reserved ticket," he said.

He alleged that the TTE was allowing the crowd to travel after collecting a certain amount of money. "Overcrowding affects the sleep of those who are traveling overnight and ruins their entire trip. In my case, I was visiting the Subramanya temple early in the morning and had barely gotten five hours of sleep. Along with this, the safety of our luggage is compromised when the coaches are overcrowded," he explained.

Sanjeev Dyamannavar, a transport expert, said that one of the reasons for this is the holiday season. Since citizens have not travelled in the past three years due to the pandemic, many are opting to do so now with railways as the mode of commute due to its affordability.

He further said that the railways have not introduced any new trains post covid, despite there being significant demand. "The infrastructure in the railways has been developed in the last few years, but the officials are refusing to run trains as it is a loss proposal for them," he said. He suggested that the authorities can choose to run summer and weekly specials by charging an extra Rs 10-20. "Commuters will still choose to travel with the railways despite the hike because bus charges are currently exorbitant," he added.

Rajkumar Dugar, a mobility expert and activist citing, an example of train 12577 – Bagmati Express, a weekly train from Darbhanga in Bihar to Mysuru, being overcrowded, said, "Pictures of the coach show that there is no place to even put your foot down and stand up. If the public knows that the rules are going to be strictly enforced, the crowd will definitely reduce. People will then not take chances and will change their dates of travel. This phenomenon is taking place across the country, and the railways are completely failing to handle the situation." He added that while introducing additional trains, coaches, and berths is very necessary, so is the enforcement of the existing rules. "Overcrowding causes inconvenience to passengers to an extent where they would not like to use the service again. Especially to those who have to travel for two days or a day and a half, with changing weather along districts. It's not easy," he said.

He noted that when such instances are called out on Twitter, the social media support handle – Railway Seva, requests the PNR number and other journey details. "They are creating issues for the ones who complain instead of taking action within the time span of the journey," he said.

"There are now talks about modern things – from bullet trains to beautification of railway stations, but this is the harsh reality. What is the sanctity of a reserved ticket?" Dugar questioned.

Foxconn gets to work in April 2024

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Minister for Large and Medium Industries, MB Patil, announced on Thursday that Foxconn, the company that manufactures iPhones, is planning to start producing iPhone units at its proposed Devanahalli plant by April 2024. The state government has committed to providing the necessary land to the company by July 1 to facilitate this development.

Patil made this statement during a courtesy visit from the company's representatives, led by George Chu. IT/BT Minister Priyanka Kharge was also present at the meeting.

iPhone production in Devanahalli is expected to generate jobs

This move by the new government aims to expedite the Rs 13,600 crore project, which is expected to generate 50,000 jobs.

"The identified 300 acres of land at ITIR of Devanahalli will be handed over by July 1. Additionally, the government will ensure the provision of 5 MLD of water, reliable power supply, road connectivity, and other necessary infrastructure facilities," Patil informed.

"The company has been requested to provide details regarding the desired skill sets in potential employees. Accordingly, steps will be taken to facilitate training programs for eligible candidates to enhance their employability," Patil further elaborated.

The Taiwan-based global company has already paid 30 per cent of the land cost (Rs 90 crores) to the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB). It plans to complete the project in three phases and aims to manufacture 20 million (2 crore) units annually from the plant upon completion of all three phases.

Just like 3G, BSNL employees remain forgotten

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BSNL employee union members protested across the city and country on Thursday over the delay in implementation of 4G and 5G services

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) employee union protested on Thursday over the delay in implementation of 4G and 5G services, stating that they have lost 75 lakh connections. Nearly 1,000 employees protested in Ulsoor, Trinity Circle, Cubbon Park, Raj Bhavan Road, near Chanakya Hotel, RT Nagara, and Shankarapuram. The protest was held across different districts of India by the Joint Forum of non-executive unions and associations of BSNL.

With more and more smartphones moving towards the adoption of 4G and 5G services, the delay has drastically impacted BSNL. Sudarshan HV, Circle Secretary of BSNL employees union and Convenor of the Joint Forum, told Bangalore Mirror, "We want to highlight the impact of the delay in the implementation of 4G and 5G services. Just last year we lost 75 lakh connections. It has been our long-time demand since 2016. The existing 3G services are being provided with 50,000 equipment and are yet to be upgraded to 4G. We have 59,000 towers that can be upgraded to provide 4G services."

He added that the union government has made way for the spectrum but has not allowed the upgrade of existing towers or the purchase of equipment from Chinese companies. "In the name of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, we have been stopped from procuring the equipment and have been running 3G services. BSNL only makes up 11 per cent, and the rest of the market share is made up of private companies who are using imported equipment. The government is launching relief packages, but without launching 4G and 5G services, it's of no use," added Sudarshan.

Sudarshan further added that on a pilot basis, an order of Rs 23,000 crore has been given to TCS for 1 lakh towers. However, the implementation will further upset the BSNL customers of 3G services due to unreliable networks.

The union added that BSNL is the only telecom company still offering 2G and 3G services. They are worried that by the time BSNL gets 4G, private players would have moved to 6G.

The drop in performance of BSNL has further impacted the wage revision of the employees. "A justified wage revision of five-10 per cent is being denied, stating that BSNL is undergoing losses. An incorrect policy decision has impacted the performance of BSNL. The number of employees has reduced from 2.5 lakh to 62,000, including executive and non-executive employees. The business has come down from Rs 60,000 crore to Rs 18,000 crore. Accordingly, the salary expenditure has come down," added Sudarshan.

The union is planning to submit a memorandum on June 14 and a final agitation will be held in Delhi on July 7, 2023.

HEALTH TIP: Protect your skin by applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 before going outside, even on cloudy days

Look for a moisturiser that is lightweight, non-comedogenic (won't clog pores), and contains ingredients like hyaluronic acid or ceramides to help retain moisture

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WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Ways to make your counterpart feel heard, keep the conversation going in an argument

Your 18-year-old daughter announces she's in love, dropping out of college and moving to Argentina. Your yoga-teaching brother refuses to get vaccinated for covid and is confident that fresh air is the best medicine.

At home, at work and in civic spaces, it's not uncommon to have conversations that make you question the benevolence of your fellow human beings.

A natural reaction is to put forth the strongest argument for your own – clearly superior – perspective in the hope that logic and evidence will win the day. When that argument fails to have the intended persuasive impact, people often grow frustrated, and disagreement becomes conflict.

Thankfully, recent research offers a different approach.

For many years, psychologists have touted the benefits of making parties in conflict feel heard. Making someone you're arguing with feel that you're listening can calm the troubled waters, allowing both parties to get safely to the opposite shore. Two problems can get in the way, though.

First, when encountering disagreement, most people jump into "persuasion mode," which doesn't leave much room for listening. Any conversation could be an opportunity to learn something new, build a relationship that might bear fruit later, or simply have an interesting experience. But most of those goals get forgotten when the urge to persuade sets in. Second, and just as important, is that even when people do wish to make their counterparts feel heard they don't know how to do so.

I lead a team of psychologists, negotiation scholars and computational linguists who have spent years studying ways that parties in conflict can behave to make their counterpart feel they are thoughtfully engaging with their perspective.

Rather than trying to change how you think of or feel about your counterpart, our work suggests that you should focus on changing your own behavior. Focusing on behavior rather than thoughts and feelings has two benefits: You know when you are doing it right, and so does your counterpart. And one of the easiest behaviors to change is the words that you say.

A 'toolbox'

We used the tools of computational linguistics to analyse thousands of interactions between people who disagree with each other on hot-button social and political issues: police brutality, sexual assault, affirmative action, and vaccines. Based on these analyses, we developed an algorithm that picks out specific words and phrases that make people in conflict feel that their counterpart is thoughtfully engaging.

These words and phrases comprise a communication style we call "conversational receptiveness." People who use conversational receptiveness in their interactions are rated more positively by their conflict counterparts on a variety of traits.

Then we experimented with training people to use the words and phrases that have the most impact, even if they're not naturally inclined to do so.

Those who received a brief conversational receptiveness training were seen as more desirable teammates and advisers by their counterpart. Training also turned out to make people more persuasive in their arguments than those who did not learn about conversational receptiveness.

We encapsulate this conversational style in the simple acronym HEAR:

- H = Hedge your claims, even when you feel very certain about your beliefs. It signals a recognition that there are some cases or some people who might support your opponent's perspective.
- E = Emphasise agreement. Find some common ground even when you disagree on a particular topic. This does not mean compromising or changing your mind, but rather recognising that most people in the world can find some broad ideas or values to agree on.
- A = Acknowledge the opposing perspective. Rather than jumping in to your own argument, devote a few seconds to restating the other person's position to demonstrate that you did indeed hear and understand it.
- R = Reframing to the positive. Avoid negative and contradictory words, such as "no," "won't" or "do not." At the same time, increase your use of positive words.

Measuring benefits of the tools in practice

In a recent set of studies, my colleagues and I recruited people who were supportive of or hesitant about getting covid vaccinations. We paired vaccine-supportive participants with the vaccine hesitant and instructed them to persuade their partner to get the shot. Before the interaction, we randomly assigned the vaccine supporters to receive brief instructions in conversational receptiveness or guidance simply to use the best arguments they could think of.

We found that participants who received a couple minutes of instruction in conversational receptiveness were seen as more trustworthy. Their counterparts were also more willing to talk to them about other topics.

In a subsequent study, we explained the concept of conversational receptiveness to participants on both sides of the issue. Just knowing that they'd be engaging with someone trained in this technique made both parties report being 50 per cent more willing to have a vaccine conversation.

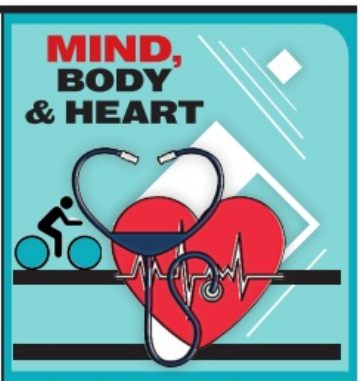
Dialing down the acrimony

This approach might be especially beneficial in conversations in which one party is highly motivated to engage while the other is less so. When such conversations turn contentious, the less motivated person can simply walk away.

That's an all-too-familiar experience for parents of teenagers who seem to have advanced degrees in ignoring unwelcome advice. Health care providers often face a similar challenge when they try to persuade patients to change behaviours they do not wish to change. In the workplace, this burden is most acutely felt by people lower in the hierarchy trying to have their views heard by higher-ups who just don't have to listen.

Conversational receptiveness is effective because it makes the interaction less confrontational and therefore less unpleasant. At the same time, it allows both parties to express their perspective. As a result, it gives people some confidence that if they approach a topic of disagreement, their partner will stay in the conversation, and the relationship will not sustain damage.

—Julia Minson, Harvard Kennedy School (The Conversation)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm devastated after finding out that my husband of a year has been having an affair, which started a while before we were married and carried on after our wedding.
Someone messaged me via social media to tell me.
I confronted him with all the details and he couldn't lie because I knew names.
He claimed it's been over for a couple of months and said it started with a drunken night and then carried on, but it was just about sex. He's pleaded with me to stay but my dreams for the future have been crushed and I can't contemplate having kids with him.
Since it all came out, his behaviour has been weird. He guards his phone and is quiet. I've since looked forensically at our joint bank account and seen cinema trips and restaurant bills I don't recognise. Even though we're still fairly newly married, I feel in my gut that I should walk away. Please help.

COLEEN SAYS

I think you know what you want to do, but you're just looking for some confidence to trust your gut.
It worries me his behaviour is secretive, it worries me that he's still not being open and honest, and it worries me that he went through with the wedding when he was sleeping with someone else.
First off, you haven't failed. He's messed up and it doesn't matter how long you've been married if you want to leave. You can walk away and no one will judge you for it – this is all on him.
Who knows why he carried on with the wedding? He's either an arrogant narcissist or maybe he got swept up in the wedding juggernaut and felt he couldn't back out.
Either way, he's not trustworthy and definitely not someone you should be considering starting a family with at this point in time.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Why BBMP is in a tight black spot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

beautifying the black spot was to ensure cleanliness and make commuting pleasant for motorists on this stretch, but these days pedestrians have to fish out handkerchiefs to cover their nostrils and prevent instant fainting due to the bad odour emanating from stagnated leachate in that area.

"The Malleshpalya Main Road is considered a model road but the bad odour from the black spot has become a nuisance and this road is losing its charm because of that one spot," said Ramesh Kumar, a resident.

Demanding that the BBMP Health Department act tough against those responsible for converting beautiful and clean places into black spots, Basavaraj N, a resident, said the black spot may become a health hazard if the BBMP continues to neglect it. "The BBMP Health Department may need to depute pourakarmikas to clear the muck and keep the place clean," said Basavaraj.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer (solid waste management) Ravi Kumar said that he would visit the spot shortly. "I joined duty a few months ago. I will ensure the place is clean and neat," said the assistant executive engineer.

Another location that has become a cause of concern for the pedestrians and motorists is the spot near a community hall between Basavanagar and Ramesh Nagar in KR Puram Assembly constituency. This place was also once beautified by the volunteers. There is a slogan – Please do not litter. Help keep your community clean – on the compound wall. Another slogan – Do not throw garbage here. Rs 1,000 penalty.

"Who will penalise the BBMP solid waste management department for turning this spot into a black spot? The leachate leaking from the garbage compactor is flowing into the roadside drain. And finally, it will reach the nearest water body," said Shiva Kumar N, a resident of Ramesh Nagar.

One more spot on the same road is near the compound of HAL East Primary and High School. Many pedestrians and thousands of motorists use this road. They are struggling to walk past this spot due to the bad odour. It is said the BBMP officials have promised residents of the area that the garbage transfer from auto tippers to the compactors would be shifted to another location as it is causing nuisance to school children.

BBMP assistant executive engineer (solid waste management) KR Puram Division said that he would direct the people engaged to transfer garbage from auto tippers to the compactors to take measures to prevent leachate flowing into the road side drain. "I will visit the spot tomorrow," said the assistant executive engineer.

The garbage contractors have to follow waste transfer protocol to ensure no garbage on ground (NGOG) while transferring garbage from auto tippers to garbage compactors. That is not done.

Now will the BBMP SWD officials at least clean up after themselves? We wait, as we hold our breath.

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I, Reena Jayaprakasan W/o. Jayaprakash. A, Residing at No. 15, Thanal, Near Lake View Garden, K. Channasandra, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to REENA PRAKASH vide affidavit dated 01.06.2023 sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

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IAF trainer aircraft crashes, pilots escape

Woman among 2 pilots who managed to eject from Kiran trainer aircraft

Locals gather near the wreckage after a Kiran trainer aircraft of the IAF crashed in a field at a village, in Chamarajanagar on Thursday

#CHAMARAJANAGAR

A Kiran trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in an open field at a village in the district on Thursday but the two pilots, including a woman, made it out safely after ejecting from the plane before the crash. District officials said the pilots, identified only as Tejpal and Bhumika, sustained minor injuries. No casualties were reported. No additional details were given by IAF.

The training aircraft, which took off from the air force station in Bengaluru, crashed this morning at Bhogapura village. It was good fortune that aircraft hit the ground on barren land and not in the nearby village, a villager said, adding it would have been catastrophic if the plane had crashed into the village.

According to the IAF, the pilots were on a routine training sortie when the incident occurred. A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of accident.

"A Kiran trainer aircraft of the IAF crashed near Chamrajnagar, Karnataka today, while on a routine training sortie. Both air crew ejected safely. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF tweeted.

Senior district officials and an IAF team reached the spot along with the fire and emergency services personnel.

As soon as the plane crashed with a loud noise, villagers rushed to the spot and found the mangled aircraft engulfed in flames and billowing smoke.

Besides alerting the local police and the fire brigade, they also rushed to the spot where the two pilots were seen ejecting and coming down with the help of parachute.

Villagers noticed the two pilots lying on the ground. Quickly, they created a temporary shed for them.

Police officials rushed to the spot, cordoned off the area and put up a makeshift tent for the injured pilots.

The district officials in turn informed the IAF authorities in Bengaluru who then rushed to the spot in a special helicopter and airlifted the two injured pilots.

According to the Additional Deputy Commissioner of the District Katyayani Devi, one of the pilots sustained injuries in the spine while the other injured her mouth.

"The IAF helicopter has airlifted the two pilots to Bengaluru," she added. Panchayat Development Officer Rame Gowda said he was in the office when he heard a blast.

"After hearing the sound, I came out and enquired. I got to know that an IAF aircraft had crashed. I rushed to the spot and saw the crashed aircraft in flames. I informed the police and the fire and emergency services department about the incident," Gowda told reporters.

According to the Chief Fire Officer of Mysuru P S Jayaramaiah, a senior fire brigade officer, a man by the name Mahesh Prithvi informed them about the crash at about 12.05 pm and soon various teams were rushed to the spot.

An eyewitness said when they offered assistance to the pilots, they said they have informed the IAF station along with sharing the GPS location of the crash site to them.

Two days ago a Redbird Training Aircraft made an emergency landing in an agriculture field soon after taking off from Sambra airport in Belagavi. The pilots escaped with minor injuries. **-PTI**

Drivers' safety, health in focus

All road transport corporation bus drivers are covered under ESI and can avail of health check-ups, officials say

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vinay Sreenivasa of BBPV told BM that the grievances of RTC drivers are not addressed. "Drivers need better working conditions, more leaves and better pay. Proactive health checkups are required to monitor their health. RTC bus drivers are covered under ESI while private bus drivers don't get these facilities. An enquiry must be conducted on the working condition of bus drivers and a report must be filed."

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) union says that routine health checkups are conducted at depots. "For around 31,000 employees, there are 700-800 employees per depot and medical camps are arranged. If anyone is screened with hypertension or diabetes, they are referred to hospitals. Employees have to routinely go to Jayadeva Hospital for checkups. There is a reimbursement system available for medical expenses while previously it used to be cashless. However, the reimbursement is as per the rates fixed and the rates in private hospitals are much higher than what is fixed. For a C-grade employee, bed charges have been fixed at Rs 250 however the private hospitals charge close to Rs 2,000," said a member of the BMTC union.

Doctors say that drivers must be given annual checkups. "For the bus drivers, it's most important to focus health checkups on vision and blood pressure, diabetes risk, cholesterol, and varicose veins. Tests like ECHO scan, lipid profile, HPA1, and vision test should be conducted at least once a year," said Dr Aravind SN, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Aster RV Hospital.

A senior BMTC official said BMTC conducts health checkups every week for those above 45 years. "For all our employees above 45 years, we are performing heart and health checkups in Jayadeva Hospital and they can also get treated there. It was conducted for 5,700 employees. The checkups happen three days a week. In the checkups, ECHO and ECG tests are also done."

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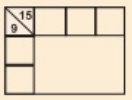
IN 4DX PVR CINEMAS NEXUS | VEGACITY | MARKETCITY | ORION | BHARTIYA | CINEPOLIS SHANTINIKETAN
REX BRIGADE RD
PVR CINEMAS NEXUS | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGACITY | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | VR | UPTOWN | ARENA | SPIRIT | GT | AURA | BHARTIYA | INOX MANTRI CENTRAL | SWAGATH | YELAHANKA | GARUDA | BROOKFIELD | VALUE MALL | LIDO | RMZ | SBR HORIZON | CINEPOLIS MEENAKSHI | ETA | SHANTINIKETAN ORION EAST | LULU | SJR | GOPALAN ARCADE | INNOVATIVE | LEGACY | SIGNATURE | GRAND | INNOVATIVE MARATHHALLI | MUKTA UTHARAHALLI KINO CINEMAS KADUGODI | ROCKLINE CINEMAS JALAHALLI | MIRAJ CINEMAS SUNKADAKATTE | CINEPHILE CINEMAS HSR LAYOUT SAPNA K.G.ROAD | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG M.G.RD | MUKUNDA SEVANAGAR | ANJAN MAGADI RD | CAUVERY SANKEY RD | BALAJI CHIKKALASANDRA PRASANNA MAGADI RD | TIRUMALA AGARA | HMT JALAHALLI | RENUKA PRASANNA J.P.NAGAR | RAVI SARJAPURA | PUSHPANJALI SULTANPALYA VICTORY KAMAKSHIPALYA | VINAYAKA D.J.HALLI | SIDDESHWARA J.P.NAGAR | VINAYAKA HARINAGAR | SWAGATH POORNIMA J.C.ROAD MANASA KONANKUNTE | SANDHYA MADIWALA | BRUNDA HONGASANDRA | LAKSHMI TAVAREKERE | KAMAKYA KATTRIGUPPE | RAVI SARJAPURA VINAYAKA MARATHHALLI | RENUKA PRASANNA J.P.NAGAR | AMRUTH LINGARAJPURAM | BALAJI TAVAREKERE | & ALSO AT OTHER FAVOURITE CINEMAS

MADDOCK FILMS
IN THEATRES TODAY
JIO STUDIOS
JIO STUDIOS & DINESH VIJAN present
ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE
directed by LAXMAN UTEKAR
produced by DINESH VIJAN produced by JYOTI DESHPANDE
a MADDOCK FILMS production
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
PVR CINEMAS | INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS | GOPALAN | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX |
BHARATH CINEMAS | DRC {MYSORE} | MOVIETIME {DAVANGERE} & OTHER CINEMAS.

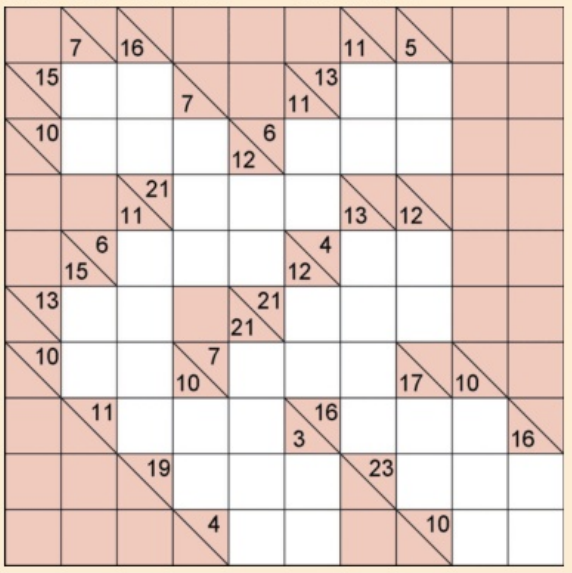
FARNAZ

Kakuro

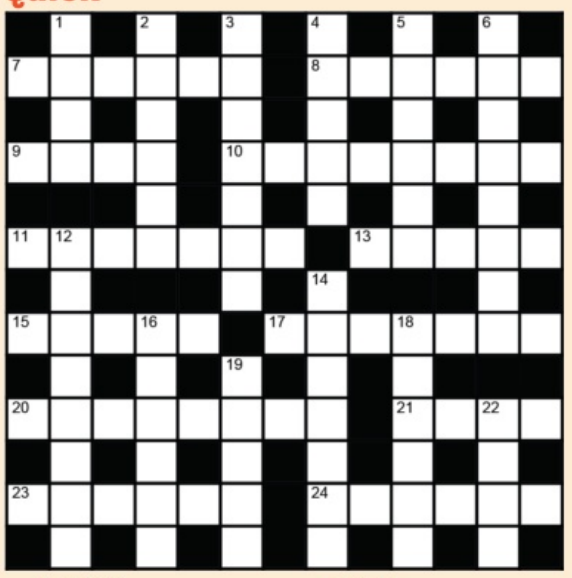


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 ___ Menuhin : famous U.S. violin virtuoso? (6)
8 Consecrate (6)
9 Not working (4)
10 Birth to death (4,4)
11 Source of misery (7)
13 Utopias or heavens (5)
15 Leaf of grass (5)
17 Farewell (7)
20 Get ___ : make a start? (8)
21 Roofing item (4)
23 Goes off course (6)
24 Rank, fetid or stale (6)

DOWN

1 Ex-Kiwi captain John ___ (4)
2 Government office (6)
3 Cultivation of crops (7)
4 Irritate or irk (5)
5 Criticized harshly (6)
6 D-Day landing site (8)
12 Speed (8)
14 Counterfeit (7)
16 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
18 Going steady (6)
19 Wash out soap (5)
22 Animal's den (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

TKOCM EV VFKW FKIVCK WVA DVGGOML.

Linemaro

There is no heart for me like yours. There is no love for you like mine

Mindchow

Charisma is a fancy name given to the knack of giving people your full attention

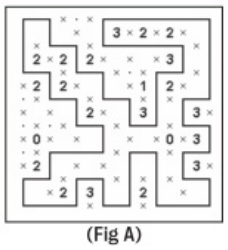
Joke of the day

What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common? Everyone is happy when the case is closed.

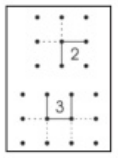
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

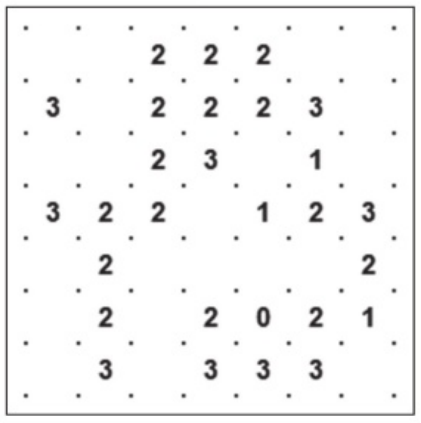


(Fig B) Not Allowed

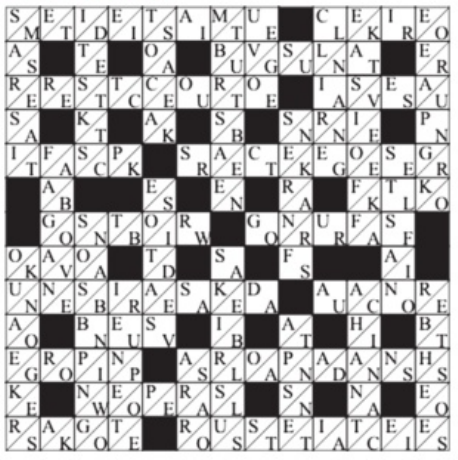
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 I
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

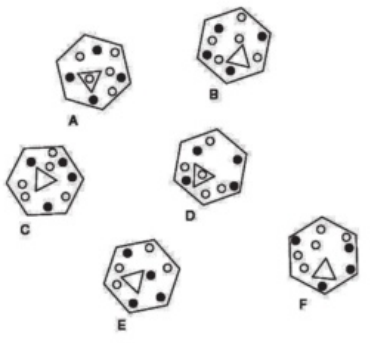
1 Sisal; 6 Hoe do; 7 Lib or; 8 Notae; 9 Drake

DOWN

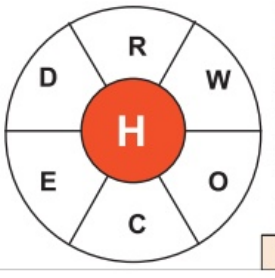
1 Labor; 2 A taro; 3 Hooks; 4 Seen I; 5 Le did

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	5		7	6	9	
6			3					
9		8				5		3
7							1	6
				8				
1	4							7
4		5				1		9
					2			5
	1	9	6		4	3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13
4 5 5 7

Medium = 11
2 2 3 7

Hard = 7
3 4 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

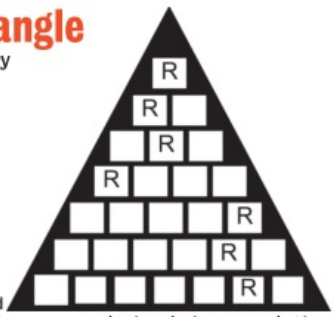
Differences: 1. Man is pointing with finger, not thumb. **2.** Desk is not as wide. **3.** Chimney is missing. **4.** "For sale" sign is moved. **5.** Paper is missing. **6.** Column on porch is missing.

Riddler

A man's life was at an all time low. He lost his job, his wife, his house; and now his mom just died in a car accident. After the funeral, a man approached him and told him that his mom had taken a mortgage on the house and left him nothing except one thing. It was a note that read: Dear my only son, Thhaenrge! Tmhoe Bnaecykiyarsd After he read the note, he finally got a smile on his face. What did his mom tell him in the note?

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Concerning
3 Part of to be
4 Tangible
5 Lucid
6 Eye covering
7 Filled pastries



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 3-25-23
This will help you sleep, and my associate will come by tomorrow to awaken you.
BIZARRO.COM ©2023 Bizarro Studios
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

A JOB IS WORK YOU DO IN ORDER TO SUPPORT YOUR BASIC NEEDS. AND BEING A HOMEMAKER COUNTS AS WORK!
HOMEMAKER - NOUN: OVERSEES THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF A HOUSE AND OTHER DOMESTIC CONCERNS.
DOMESTIC CONCERNS LIKE... RAISING A SOON-TO-BE UPSTANDING MEMBER OF SOCIETY?
THE PIE!! I MEAN...
OBJECTION!
WHAT NOW?!
DOMESTIC CONCERNS!
BEEP BEEP!

Crankshaft

DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHY SUPERMAN WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO POST BAIL?
KOMIX KORNER
3-22
BECAUSE HE'S A FLIGHT RISK!
I'VE NEVER BANNED ANYONE FROM MY COMICS SHOP BEFORE... BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may likely control your internal weaknesses after analysing yourself, which will give you confidence. You may fight against addictions and overcome your weaknesses. Singles are likely to find a good match, and love birds will have clarity in their relationship. Expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will receive good news regarding academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, situations are under control, and you may feel better. You may plan for overseas travel, and your network may help you on the work front. Domestic harmony will increase, and you may be more creative, bringing artifacts or creative stuff for your family or office. Consider planning to watch movies or engage in other entertainment activities with friends or family.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
At the start of the week, you can expect financial gains and achieve a balance between your earnings and expenses, which will boost your bank balance. Your performance at work will improve, and your boss may assign you new responsibilities, possibly leading to promotions. You will recover money from your lenders and gain control over opponents and hidden enemies. Your health will also improve.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may plan to renovate your house and buy decorative items to maintain your social status. Harmony with your spouse will be enhanced, leading to a peaceful domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners will likely settle down, and you may receive good news regarding litigation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel energetic, and any old illnesses may be cured. Expect good news from a close relative. You will perform well at the office, with support from your subordinates in a difficult project. Trust in your subordinate staff will increase, enhancing your prestige in society. There may also be positive developments in a legal matter.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may find life challenging, and seeking advice from elders will help you navigate the given situation. Patience will be key. Concerns about your children's education may arise, leading to a short trip related to their academics. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making any investments. Consider enrolling in a course to enhance your educational skills.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is not a positive day, and you may feel disappointed. Your focus on work may be lacking, affecting your routine tasks. Projects may be delayed, so it's advised to persevere in the current situation. Postpone investments in fixed assets and any plans for construction.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, disputes with siblings may be resolved, strengthening your relationship with them. Your vitality will be high, aiding in the completion of difficult projects. Expand your network after a work-related trip and extend a helping hand to those in need, as it will increase your prestige. You may meet influential individuals who will be helpful in your professional future.

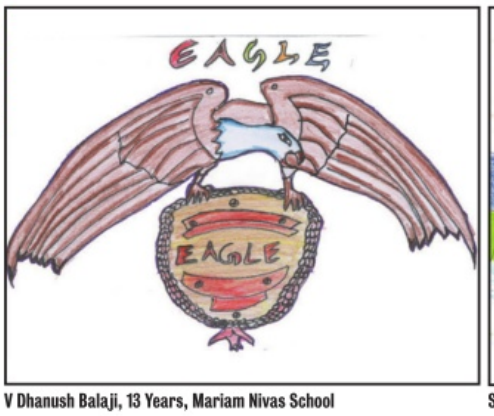
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with your family and enjoy spending time with them and friends. Expect new sources of income that will boost your financial health. Control unnecessary expenses and invest in worthwhile things to increase your social status. Also, focus on your children's academics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you will feel energetic, leading to fast and efficient performance. Completing tasks within the given timeframe will make you happy, and you may encourage someone who is feeling down. Your prestige will increase, and there will be a balance between your domestic and professional life. Individuals involved in import and export, trading, and strategic analysis may see improvements.

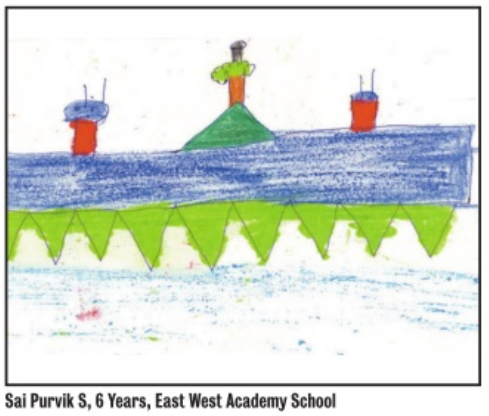
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and experience laziness and dullness, which can impact the progress of your projects or work. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making important decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers may face disappointment in interviews, and you might waste precious time on unproductive tasks.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull, and your focus may be lost towards your targets. Avoid making hypothetical decisions that are disconnected from reality. Your expectations may be too high, leading to disappointment and frustration due to impatience. Be cautious during adventure tours and avoid rushing while driving. However, in the afternoon, your profits may increase, and you may start working with new clients, which will contribute to future business growth.

KIDZONE



V Dhanush Balaji, 13 Years, Mariam Nivas School


Sai Purvik S, 6 Years, East West Academy School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
If you don't understood what it read, it said: "Hang in There! Money is in the back yard."
Explanation:
ThHaEnRgEi TmHoE BnAeCyKiYnARsD If you can read, you can see the "hang" is literally in "there" and "money is" is literally in "the backyard". By the way, the mom hid the money in the garden, if you were wondering.

SOLVE IN 1M
2+2=½=
2+1=

FAST FIVE

L	A	S	S	I
O	O	H	E	D
B	R	O	I	L
A	T	O	N	E
R	A	K	E	D

STRIKE OUT

M	E	D	I	T	A	T	E	C	E	R	O			
A	E	A	U	V	U	L	A	R						
R	E	S	T	C	U	R	E	A	S	E	A			
A	K	K	B	N	E	P								
T	A	S	K	R	A	C	E	G	O	E	R			
O	V	A	D	S	S	I								
B	S	N	A	F	L	O								
G	R	I	P	S	L	A	P	D	A	S	H			
A	B	U	S	I	A	H	T							
N	E	B	R	A	S	K	A	A	C	N	E			
R	A	G	E	O	S	T	E	I	T	I	S			

QUICK

R	B	T	C	S	N									
Y	E	H	U	D	I	H	A	L	L	O	W			
S	T	R	A	Y	S	R	A	N	C	I	D			
I	C	N	E	I	A									
C	R	A	C	K	I	N	G	T	I	L	E			
E	E	R	A											
B	L	A	D	E	G	O	O	D	B	Y	E			
E														
S	C	O	U	R	G	E	E	D	E	N	S			
A	A	E	E	A										
I	D	L	E	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E			
L	I	R	A											
Y	E	H	U	D	I	H	A	L	L	O	W			
R	B	T	C	S	N									

MENSA PUZZLE
E: it only contains four small white circles whereas the rest contain five.

QUOTE UNCODE
Learn to obey before you command.

BULL'S EYE
chew, chord, chore, chow, CHOWDER, echo, herd, hero, horde, ochre

SUDOKU

2	3	1	5	4	7	6	9	8
6	5	4	3	9	8	7	2	1
9	7	8	1	2	6	5	4	3
7	8	2	4	3	5	9	1	6
5	9	6	7	8	1	2	3	4
1	4	3	2	6	9	8	5	7
4	2	5	8	7	3	1	6	9
3	6	7	9	1	2	4	8	5
8	1	9	6	5	4	3	7	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ra, Are, Real, Clear, Sclera, Eclairs.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 4 + 7 + 5 = 13
Medium
2 / 2 + 7 + 3 = 11
Hard
3 x 4 + 4 – 9 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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Just a lunch date

Samantha Ruth Prabhu treats her fans on Instagram with a sweet picture of herself with her best buddy Vijay Deverakonda as the two go on a lunch date together.

In the picture, Samantha is seen smiling at the camera while Vijay is seen making a funny face.

The actress captioned the picture, 'Sees you at your best, sees you at your worst. Sees you come last, sees you come first. Sees your lows, sees your highs. Some friends gently standby. What a year it has been!! @thedeverakonda'.

As soon as she shared the picture on Instagram, likes and comments poured in from all sides. While one fan wrote, 'Aren't they cute together??? Loved them', another one added, 'Waiting for your movie'. A user also commented, 'Best people in a best frame Picture Perfect'. Samantha will next be seen in the Indian-version of 'Citadel' alongs with Varun Dhawan. The American version starred Priyanka Chopra. — **Agencies**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New avatar

Monish Nagaraj also known as Rishi is elated about playing the lead in Shaitan (Devil), a seven-episode web series that is dubbed in multiple languages. Rishi says he felt nervous as well as excited when he got a phone call from Hyderabad asking him to act in the Telugu web series that will be out in five languages.

"It is the first time that I visited Hyderabad because I never went to neighboring states seeking opportunities to act in other languages . I thought the makers of Shaitan were asking me to play a small role but they offered me to play the lead. It was shot around Madanapalle of Annamayya in Andhra Pradesh. It was a nice experience," said Rishi.

Rishi said he plays Baali in the series created by Mahi R Raghav. He said the makers of Shaitan had seen his films Operation Alamelamma and Kavaludari and picked him for the role. "I played a character who can go to any extent to safeguard his family," he said.

Meanwhile, a song from Rishi's Kannada movie Ramana Avatara was released in Bengaluru recently. The lyrics of Rama Is Gentleman were penned by Nagarjun Sharma.

Leelavathi felicitated

Around 50 senior Kannada artistes gathered at Leelavathi's farm house situated at Soldevanahalli of Nelamangala on Wednesday. Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce wanted to felicitate the veteran actress on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8 but she could not make it to the function due to age-related ailments.

Senior artistes including Shridhar, Doddanna, Sunder Raj, Jai Jagadeesh, Girija Lokesh, Padma Vasanthi, Anjali, Bhavya, director Sai Prakash, Dingri Nagaraj, Tennis Krishna, actress Pooja Gandhi have participated in the felicitation programme. The artistes recalled their association with Leelavathi and Leelavathi's son Vinod Raj arranged a sumptuous lunch for them. Famous songs from Leelavathi's movies were played at the event. Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Ba Ma Harish told BM the felicitation was organised to express moral support to Leelavathi. "It gives me immense pleasure to meet Leelavathi madam," said Ba Ma Harish. He said Leelavathi wanted to meet senior artistes and executive members of the Chamber of Commerce. "She called us over the phone inviting us to her house," he said.

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